

through the skin. The tail in the female does not reach to the margin of the cartilaginous portion of the carapace.

Colour of the carapace dark blackish plumbeous, with a tinge of olive, due to the presence of blackish spots, among which are intermixed many rusty brown spots, which overlies as it were the black spots. The head, neck, and upper surface of the limbs are almost black; the upper lip in its two posterior thirds is white; and there is a great white blotch over the ear. The area between the neck and the fore legs is whitish; and there are some white spots on the margin of the carapace. The head is reticulately spotted; and there is a distinct infrapræorbital band, and a trace of another above the eyes; but the head is so black that these markings are difficult to distinguish. The under surface of the head and neck is almost black; and the plastron is densely spotted with blackish purple, especially over the bones, and the tail is similarly marked. The claws are yellow.

Hab. Tanks at Chittagong, Bengal.

XXXVIII.—*Further Contributions to the Ornithology of Australia.* By JOHN GOULD, F.R.S.

IT is with great pleasure that I have to draw the attention of naturalists to some interesting novelties which have just been forwarded to me from Australia by Mr. Waterhouse, whose letter on the subject is subjoined.

“South-Australian Museum,
Adelaide, South Australia.
July 15, 1875.

“MY DEAR SIR,—Mr. F. W. Andrews, who for many years has been collecting birds in this colony, and has added from time to time many rare species to the Museum, has just returned from the Lake-Eyre expedition with a good collection of bird-skins. Among the specimens collected I have selected, and now forward to you by this mail, the following, viz. :—

“2 *Amytis*, n. sp., nearly allied to *A. textilis*, but smaller, general colour much lighter; throat white, flanks (probably of the male only) with a rufous streak.

“1 *Cinclosoma cinnamomeum*, sent for comparison, being lighter-coloured and smaller than any specimens which have hitherto come under my observation.

“2 *Ptilotis*, sp. I have frequently received specimens of this bird from the far north, and am doubtful as to the species.

"1 *Melithreptes*, n. sp. This is the finest I have ever seen of the genus: only four were shot, and I send you the best. The collector remarks that when alive they had a bright yellow rim round the eyes.

I remain, very truly yours,

"F. G. WATERHOUSE."

The box so kindly sent to me by Mr. Waterhouse having arrived, I am able to state that the *Amytis* and *Melithreptes* both appear to be new to science. The *Cinclosoma* I cannot separate from the true *C. cinnamomeum*; and the *Ptilotis* will require further comparison. I now proceed to describe the remaining species, the first of which I shall call after Mr. George Woodroffe Goyder, by whose influence and exertions a natural-history collector was sent to the northern territory with the Lake-Eyre expedition.

Amytis Goyderi, sp. n.

General colour fawn, distinctly streaked with white on the upper surface, each white stripe having a dark-brown lateral border on each side, the streaks becoming sandy-coloured on the lower back and disappearing entirely on the rump and upper tail-coverts, which are consequently uniform fawn; tail-feathers brown, with sandy-coloured shafts, the outer feathers rather broadly edged with fulvous; wings brown, the least coverts minutely and the greater series broadly streaked with sandy buff; quills brown, with light sandy-coloured shafts, and externally margined with rufous, the secondaries much more broadly, the innermost with broad fawn-coloured margins all round and streaked down the centre with sandy rufous; lores and sides of face white, the latter narrowly streaked with blackish brown, more distinctly on the cheeks; throat and breast pure white, as well as the centre of the abdomen; the flanks bright fawn-colour, inclining to paler and more sandy rufous on the thighs and upper and under wing-coverts.

Total length 5·5 inches, culmen 0·45, wing 2·1, tail 2·8, tarsus 0·9.

A second specimen sent, probably the female, is tinged with vinous instead of fawn-colour as in the male.

As Mr. Waterhouse points out in his letter, the new *Amytis* is very closely allied to *A. textilis*; but it differs in being fawn-coloured instead of dull brown, with much broader white streaks on the upper surface; it is also distinguishable at a glance by its white under surface and fawn-coloured flanks.

Melithreptes letior, sp. n.

Head and nape black, as well as the lores and ear-coverts; the cheeks and a band of feathers round the occiput pure white; back greenish yellow, brighter on the rump and shading off into bright lemon-yellow on the hind neck and sides of the latter; tail brown, with a narrow whitish edging at the tip, all but the outer feathers margined with greenish yellow; wings ashy brown, externally washed with grey, the primaries narrowly margined with whitish; under surface of body white, the breast and flanks shaded with ashy, and the chin black, fading into ashy brown on the throat and producing a distinct chin-stripe; under wing-coverts white, shaded with ashy.

Total length 5·5 inches, culmen 0·6, wing 3·4, tail 2·7, tarsus 0·75.

Although very closely allied to *M. gularis*, Gould, this species is altogether a much more finely coloured bird. In size it is slightly larger, and is at once to be distinguished by its white under surface and the beautiful lemon-yellow of the neck. The ashy shade which pervades the entire lower surface of *M. gularis* is not seen in *M. letior*.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ROYAL SOCIETY.

April 8, 1875.—Joseph Dalton Hooker, C.B., President, in the Chair.

“First Report of the Naturalist attached to the Transit-of-Venus Expedition to Kerguelen’s Island, December 1874.” By the Rev. A. E. EATON.

To the Secretary of the Royal Society.

Royal Sound, Kerguelen’s Island,
31st December, 1874.

DEAR SIR,—It is difficult, owing to the inexactness of the charts, to inform you of the positions of the Astronomical Stations in whose neighbourhood I have been able to work in this island. The German Station is in Betsy Cove, the American at Molloy Point, Royal Sound. The English Stations also are in this Sound, the second being situated about three miles N. by W. of Swain’s Hauoyer. The first English Station is between these last two on the mainland, six or seven miles N.W. of Three-Island Harbour, in what will be called Observatory Bay. Two days before the Transit of Venus, a party under Lieut. Goodridge, R.N., was detached from